



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Holly L. Martien, (318) 473-7917
holly.martien@la.usda.gov

**LOAN AND GRANT DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR RENEWABLE
ENERGY/ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS
Deadline for Grant Applications is May 18, 2007**

ALEXANDRIA, April 9, 2007 – Agricultural producers and small businesses interested in funding for renewable energy and/or energy efficiency projects should contact USDA Rural Development as soon as possible. USDA funding was announced in March, and the application window for grants closes May 18, 2007.

In March, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced the availability of \$176.5 million in loan guarantees and \$11.4 million in grants to support investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements by agricultural producers and small businesses.

Applications for grants must be completed and submitted to the appropriate USDA Rural Development State Office postmarked no later than May 18, 2007. The deadline for submitting loan applications, as well as for loan and grant combinations, is July 2, 2007. For more information, refer to the announcement in the March 22, 2007, Federal Register or contact:

Kevin Boone
Renewable Energy Coordinator
USDA Rural Development
Telephone: (337) 262-6601, extension 133
Fax (337) 262-6823
e-mail: kevin.boone@la.usda.gov

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency loan and grant program was established under Section 9006 of the 2002 Farm Bill. Loan guarantees cover up to 50 percent of a project's cost, not to exceed \$10 million. Grants are available for up to 25 percent of a project's cost, not to exceed \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements and \$500,000 for renewable energy systems.

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USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The USDA Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, telephone (318) 473-7921. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be found on USDA Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

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